

Applicants respectfully request that the Restriction Requirement and Election of Species Requirement be withdrawn. It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims could be searched by one Examiner without undue effort. It is also respectfully submitted that it is not mandatory to make a restriction or election of species requirement in every possible situation. It is believed that if one Examiner acts on all of the claims of the present application at one time, overall examining time will be less than if two or more Examiners are involved. It is also earnestly believed that the examination of all of the claims at one time by one Examiner in the present application will best ensure uniform prosecution quality. Therefore, in the interest of prosecution economy of time and quality for both the Office and Applicants, it is respectfully submitted that withdrawal of the restriction and election of species requirements in this application and examination of all pending claims on their merits are appropriate and such actions are respectfully solicited.

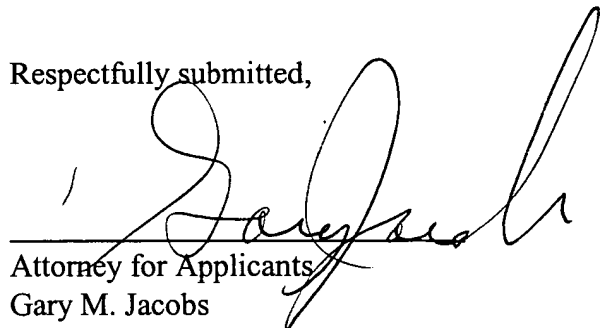
#### *Claim Amendments*

Claims 1-16 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 11-16 are newly added. Claims 1-3, 8 and 10 are independent.

Consideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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98103 v 1



Appln. No.: 09/131,744  
Attney Dkt. No.: 00684.002742

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) A recording method comprising:

a step of ejecting onto a recording material ink having a Ka value of a first value [not more than  $3 \text{ (ml.m}^{-2}\text{.msec}^{-\frac{1}{2}}\text{)}$ ]; and

a step of applying to the ink deposited on the recording material, a processing liquid having a Ka value of a second value larger than the first value [not less than  $5 \text{ (ml.m}^{-2}\text{.msec}^{-\frac{1}{2}}\text{)}$ ] to insolubilize a coloring material in the ink inside the recording medium [material],

wherein the processing liquid is applied to the ink after [the ink is deposited on the recording medium and after] a rapid swell start point ts passes after penetration of the ink into the medium.

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